THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) The Governments of seven States of North-Eastern region were informed in 1987 of the decision of the Central Government for setting up of separate High Courts for these States, and pending Parliamentary legislation for the purpose, for establishing permanent Benches of the Guwahati High Court in the capitals of these States. The permanent Benches of the Guwahati High Court have been established in the capitals of these States, except Assam, as and when the concerned State Governments have provided requisite infrastructual facilities. The last such Bench has been established at Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh with effect from 12th August, 2000.

The Governments of Tripura and Manipur had proposed setting up of separate High Courts for their respective States. However, in view of the workload, the State Governments were informed that the existing permanent Benches of the High Court at Agartala and Imphal are sufficient for the present.

(c) A statement in this regard is annexed.

Statement

Bench-wise number of cases pending before Guwahati High Court

Sl. No.	Bench	Pending cases as on 31.3.2001
1.	Principal Seat	35,764
2.	Kohima Bench	547
3.	Shillong Bench	850
4.	Imphal Bench	6,841
5.	Agartala Bench	4,095
6.	Aizawl Bench	350
7.	Itanagar Bench	281

Need for Judicial Reforms

868. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need for judicial reforms in the country particularly because of huge pending cases, prolonged trails,

frequent adjournments, absence of prosecution and defence counsels at hearings, defective recording of evidence, indifferent role of prosecution lawyers, low convictions, less working days in courts, delayed delivery of judgement, absence and non-implementation of code of conduct for lawyers *vis-a-vis* litigants and inaction of BCA etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to amend the various sections of Code of Criminal Procedure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As regards amendment of Criminal Procedure, the Law Commission of India has comprehensively reviewed the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 is pending consideration by Parliament. The Government has recently appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Justice V.S. Malimath, to suggest measures for revamping the Criminal Justice System.

Amendment in Marriage Laws

869. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to further amend the Marriage Laws and other related Acts to provide for prompt disposal of applications for payment of interim maintenance relief to the divorced/deserted wife;

(b) if so, the details of amendments proposed to be made;

(c) whether Government also propose to increase the quantum of maintenance relief fixed more than 45 years ago;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the proposed amendments are likely to be introduced in Parliament?